

Members

Kevin Brinegar, Chairperson
Cordelia Lewis-Burks
David Griffiths
James Gutting
Jimmy Neal
Theresa Wright



GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEDICAID AND HUMAN SERVICES

LSA Staff:

Philip J. Sachtleben, Attorney for the
Subcommittee

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*Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554*

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 10, 2004
Meeting Time: 9 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 9

Members Present: Kevin Brinegar, Chairperson; Cordelia Lewis-Burks; James Gutting; Theresa Wright.

Members Absent: Jimmy Neal.

Mr. Kevin Brinegar, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. He introduced the Subcommittee members and the meeting topic. Mr. Brinegar called on Mr. Steve DeMougin, Director, Division of Family and Children (DFC), Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), to present information concerning the division.

Division of Family and Children

Mr. DeMougin distributed a flyer entitled "Protecting Children in Indiana" (Exhibit A) and a packet of material concerning DFC (Exhibit B).

Mr. DeMougin discussed the top 20 program areas for FSSA and the funding for major service categories. In response to a question, he described how counties provide funds for family services through property tax levies that are placed in a county Family and Children Fund and that these funds are not included in the state budget.

Next, Mr. DeMougin discussed the capacity of licensed child care homes and centers and thresholds for licensure indicating that health and safety standards were the primary

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consideration. He explained that the Board for Coordination of Child Care Regulation was considering ways that differences in statute made regulation complex. Looking at usage of child care funding and enrollment, Mr. DeMougin indicated that decreases in federal funding had caused a decrease in the number of people in the program and increased the waiting list.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Healthy Families Program were discussed. Healthy Families has been recognized for 10 years of service; Indiana and Florida are the only states with this program. In discussing the TANF program, Mr. DeMougin indicated that the standards are set in statute and that they decrease the number of people eligible each year. The state loses federal funds each year because of the 1996 limit established in federal law. Food Stamp program caseloads were also discussed.

Mr. DeMougin added some highlights that were not in the slides including recognition of the state for having the most cost effective child support program among the states. He also indicated that the state has developed an electronic eligibility system for food stamps and may receive a bonus from the United States Department of Agriculture.

In response to questions, Mr. DeMougin indicated that counties could increase levies in some cases for their family and children fund and that costs in smaller counties can be driven by just a couple of kids. He also discussed a survey of child welfare services that the state failed, saying that all states failed and that the survey was the first of its kind.

Mr. DeMougin asked Ms. Jane Bisbee, Child Welfare Unit, to further describe the survey. Ms. Bisbee indicated that three counties were selected for evaluation, including Marion County which must be reviewed as the most populated county in the state. Indiana has initiated a plan to improve service and will be reevaluated. She indicated that one goal is to move children through the system more quickly. However, Ms. Bisbee indicated that risk management is important and that more education for the staff will improve child safety.

As the discussion returned to funding, Mr. DeMougin explained that flexibility was high, but that the concern was knowing what the federal standards would be. Further, he said that collaboration was key to the effective use of dollars, and he discussed the role of the Step Ahead Councils. Mr. Brinegar asked that a summary of federal surveys with comparisons to other states be prepared for the Subcommittee.

Mr. Brinegar then asked how much variability in approach and cost there was among counties. Mr. DeMougin explained that family and children funds have always operated at the county level, but that there was some change occurring because service providers are becoming larger organizations and are operating throughout the state.

Mr. Brinegar asked for comments from the audience, but none were offered. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.